

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Cancelled).

2 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein which is capable of binding to tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated 2 protein (TRAF2), said protein ~~consisting~~ comprising:

(A) a ~~protein comprising~~ polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; or

(B) a variant ~~having~~ consisting of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said ~~protein or~~ variant is ~~each~~ capable of binding to TRAF2.

3 (Original). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

4-19 (Cancelled).

20 (Previously Presented). A composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

21 (Currently Amended). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the

portion of said isolated protein of claim 2 that is said  
polypeptide of (A) or said variant of (B).

22 (Original). The molecule of claim 21, which is an antibody.

23 (Original). The molecule of claim 22, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

24 (Previously Presented). A composition comprising the molecule of claim 21, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

25-37 (Cancelled).

38 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said protein ~~or~~ and said variant ~~is~~ are each capable of binding to a component of the NF- $\kappa$ B complex selected from the group consisting of IKappaB kinase complex associated protein (IKAP), IKappaB kinase-alpha (IKK-alpha), IKappaB kinase-beta (IKK-beta), IKappaB kinase-gamma (IKK-gamma) and NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase (NIK).

39 (Cancelled).

40 (Previously Presented). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said variant of (B) has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

41 (Cancelled).

42 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, ~~consisting of~~comprising a variant of the ~~protein-comprising~~polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant ~~has~~consists of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3, and which variant is capable of binding to TRAF2.

43 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, ~~consisting of~~comprising a variant of the ~~protein-comprising~~polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant ~~has~~consists of an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3, and which variant is capable of binding to TRAF2.

44 (Currently Amended). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the ~~isolated protein of claim 3~~polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3.

45 (Previously Presented). The molecule of claim 44, which is an antibody.

46 (Previously Presented). The molecule of claim 45, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

47 (Previously Presented). The isolated protein of claim 40, wherein said variant has no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

48 (Previously Presented). The isolated protein of claim 40, wherein said variant has no more than five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

49 (New). The isolated protein of claim 47, wherein each said change from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 is a conservative substitution selected from among the substitutions in the following list:

<u>Original</u>	
<u>Residue</u>	<u>Substitution</u>
Ala	Gly;Ser
Arg	Lys
Asn	Gln;His
Asp	Glu
Cys	Ser
Gln	Asn
Glu	Asp
Gly	Ala;Pro
His	Asn;Gln
Ile	Leu;Val
Leu	Ile;Val
Lys	Arg;Gln;Glu
Met	Leu;Tyr;Ile
Phe	Met;Leu;Tyr

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Ser	Thr
Thr	Ser
Trp	Tyr
Tyr	Trp;Phe
Val	Ile;Leu

or a conservative substitution that is an exchange within one  
of the following five groups:

Small aliphatic, nonpolar or

slightly polar residues: Ala, Ser, Thr (Pro, Gly);

Polar negatively charged

residues and their amides: Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln;

Polar, positively charged residues: His, Arg, Lys;

Large aliphatic nonpolar residues: Met, Leu, Ile, Val (Cys);

and

Large aromatic residues: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

50 (New). The isolated protein of claim 49, wherein  
said variant has no more than 5 of said amino acid changes  
from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.